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MISCELLANY.

The Bishops on Divorce.—It is, to our mind, a welcome thing that the Bishops of St. Albans and Birmingham, who have this week given evidence before the Royal Commission—the retirement from which of Sir Rufus Isaacs, through pressure of his official work, has given occasion for some unnecessary misgiving—should both have expressed the conviction that marriage should be treated by the State as a civil contract. In this way the bishops see the only solution for the conflict between the common secular view and the view that is still held by the Church of England, that marriage is indissoluble. In the eyes of the Church divorce is an absolute evil, and the marriage of a person who has obtained divorce a sin. It was represented to the bishops that this was neither the doctrine of the leaders of the Reformation nor the attitude of the archbishops in 1857; but they insisted that it was the established position of the Church to-day, and a position in which they could not allow the State to interfere. One is reminded of Maitland's youthful epigram that "at the Reformation the English State put an end to its Roman bride, but married its deceased wife's sister." But though the attitude of the Anglican leaders opens up serious questions on the relation of Church and State, it must for the moment be accepted; and all must recognize the injustice of compelling any religious body to act against its convictions. That being so, the only way which does justice at once to the requirements of the Churches and the legitimate demands of the layman is for the State to make the civil ceremony compulsory, and to leave it to each religious denomination to impose its own conditions upon those who desire a sacred sanction to their union. As the Bishop of Birmingham pointed out, the State can well take measures to insure that the marriage contract should be regarded as more serious and solemn than an ordinary business engagement. At the same time the uncompromising hostility to divorce shown by the Church discounts the value of the evidence given by a number of clergymen and Police Court missionaries to the effect that the working classes do not want greater facilities for divorce. Their wish has been father to the thought.—London Law Journal.

Judge Duke sends us the following clipping from the Daily Mail:
Penalties for Airmen.

Berlin.—The first governmental code of regulations for airmen will be published in Germany to-day, when the official gazette of the province of Brandenburg will contain an edict imposing a scale of fines for the offence of flying over townships and villages. The highest penalty imposed is £3.

In default of payment the airman's machine becomes liable to distraint. Airships are unaffected by the edict.

In the forthcoming cross-country race from Frankfort to Mannheim any airman flying above the towns of Frankfort, Höchst, Wiesbaden, Mainz, Worms, or Mannheim becomes liable to a penalty of £5. Competitors have also before starting to sign an undertaking of responsibility for any damage to property they may occasion during the flight.—From Our Own Correspondent.

IN VACATION.

Too Pretty to Change.—The late Chief Justice Chase was noted for his gallantry. While on a visit to the South, shortly after the war, he was introduced to a very beautiful woman, who prided herself upon her devotion to the "lost cause." Anxious that the chief justice should know her sentiments, she remarked, as she gave him her hand. "Mr. Chase, you see before you a rebel who has not been reconstructed."

"Madam," he replied, with a profound bow, "reconstruction in your case would be blasphemous."—Everybody's Magazine.

Who Hires the Jury.—A certain Philadelphia judge, who, disgusted with a jury that seemed unable to reach an agreement in a perfectly evident case, rose and said, "I discharge this jury."

One sensitive talesman, indignant at what he considered a rebuke, obstinately faced the judge.

"You can't discharge me," he said in tones of one standing upon his rights.

"And why not?" asked the surprised judge.

"Because," answered the juror, pointing to the lawyer for the defense, "I'm being hired by that man there."—Central Law Journal.